SUB B17

1. (Amended) A method performed by a client device for highlighting search terms in web documents distributed over the Internet, comprising:

generating a search query including a search term;

receiving a list of one or more links to web documents distributed over the Internet in response to the search query;

receiving selection of one of the links;

retrieving a web document corresponding to the selected link from the Internet; and

highlighting the search term in the retrieved web document.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the highlighting includes:

automatically searching the retrieved web document to locate each occurrence of the search term, and

for each occurrence of the search term, changing a characteristic of the search term in the retrieved web document.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the changing includes:

changing at least one of a color, font, style, effect, and size of the search term in the retrieved web document.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing the retrieved web document with the highlighted search term to a user.

5.   (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the highlighting the search term includes:

intercepting the web document, and

highlighting one or more occurrences of the search term in the web document.

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6.   (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the generating includes:

sending the search query to one of a search engine and a web directory to obtain the list of one or more links.

7.   (Amended) A system for highlighting search terms in documents remotely distributed over a network to aid in the determination of relevance of the documents, comprising:

means for generating a search query including one or more search terms;

means for receiving a list of one or more references to documents in the network in response to the search query;

means for highlighting one or more occurrences of the one or more search terms in the list of one or more references;

means for receiving selection of one of the one or more references;

means for retrieving a document corresponding to the selected reference; and

means for highlighting the one or more search terms in the retrieved document.

8.   (Amended) A client device that highlights search terms in web documents remotely distributed over the Internet to aid in the determination of relevance of the web

documents, comprising:

a memory configured to store instructions; and

a processor configured to execute the instructions in the memory to generate a search query that includes one or more search terms, obtain a list of one or more links to web documents distributed over the Internet using the search query, obtain selection of one of the links, download a web document corresponding to the selected link from the Internet, and highlight the one or more search terms in the downloaded web document.

9.   (Amended) A browser assistant that interacts with a browser on a client device, comprising:

instructions for generating a search query including a search term;

instructions for obtaining a list of one or more links to web documents distributed over the Internet using the search query;

instructions for obtaining selection of one of the links;

instructions for retrieving a web document corresponding to the selected link from the Internet; and

instructions for highlighting the search term in the retrieved web document.

12.   (Amended) A web browser, comprising:

instructions for obtaining a search term;

instructions for generating a search query from the search term;

instructions for obtaining a list of references to documents distributed over a network